

Hold the Key in Missouri.

The Farmers' and Laborers' Alliance of Missouri holds the key to the political situation in Missouri. Everybody admits this except the leaders, who claim nothing, but are sawing wood with commendable assiduity. They stop just long enough, at proper intervals, to rub the bacon rind along the blade, and remark that "the Alliance is not mixing in politics." But they compelled the Democratic convention to nominate Judge James B. Garrett to the supreme bench and W. H. Hickman to the railroad commission, when the machine politicians had the pins set for Judge Thomas and Silas Carr. In that convention the Alliance cast 225 out of 527 votes. In this state the consolidated Alliance and wheel have 190,000 members, and 175,000 are voters. It is organizing at the rate of five sub-unions a day, and when the November election arrives will control 250,000 votes, and hold the balance of power in the state.

At the recent convention of the Alliance, which was held at Sedalia, Aug. 12-15, it was reported that the organization is represented in 112 of the 114 counties of the state. By the platform adopted at that convention the Alliance will support only those candidates for congress who will pledge themselves to vote against alien and corporation acquirement of public lands; and who will favor an income tax, governmental control of railroads and telegraphs, and the reduction of rates for railroad transportation so as to yield only 6 per cent. net on the investment.

The Alliance also favors state publication of school books and their sale to consumers at cost. It was the especial champion of the Australian election law, available to cities of 5,000 population and more in Missouri, and demands the repeal of the law which provides that unless a political party polls 3 per cent. of the entire vote of the state it shall not be entitled to representation at the polls at the next ensuing election. On national issues other than those referred to the members of the Missouri Alliance are nearly all Democrats.—St. Louis Ccr. Atlanta Constitution.

Land Surveys.

The land office has practically settled upon the allowance for surveys of public lands to be made in the new states.

The whole amount appropriated for this was \$425,000. Of this Washington gets \$100,000, the largest amount going there because of the difficulty in doing the work and the consequent higher rate per mile. Montana comes next, with \$70,000. Each of the Dakotas gets \$40,000, and Idaho and Wyoming \$20,000 each. In addition to the above amount the surveyor general in South Dakota will have charge of the surveying in the Sioux reservation, for which there is an especial appropriation of \$100,000.

With the amounts to be thus expended in South Dakota, Washington and Montana the department believes that the appropriation of \$30,000 for examiners of surveys will not be enough to keep up with the field work. In view of the loud calls for surveys which are coming from these states the surveyors will be told to go on with the work as fast as they can with the money at hand, and a deficiency bill will be trusted to provide compensation for examiners.—Washington Letter.

Taxation in Illinois.

The Scott resolution, providing that all real and personal property should be assessed at 25 per cent. of its fair cash value, has been occupying the attention of the state board of equalization. The country members are very much dissatisfied at having the Pullman Palace Car company's assessment placed at \$1,000,000 when the company reports itself at \$44,000,000. The disclosures made this week are a rank reflection not only on the railroad and warehouse commission, but also on the auditor of public ac-

counts. It transpires that the Chicago, Indiana and State Line railroad has existed for several years, yet it has never been assessed as a railroad. By some cute twist of the wrist part of its property has been returned as a portion of the appurtenances of the Union Stock Yards company. Thus about fifty miles of railroad has escaped taxation for ten years through the stupidity or carelessness of the railroad and warehouse commissioners. The country members demand that railroad and other corporations shall pay their share of the taxes of the state.—Springfield (Ills.) Special to St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

New York Farmers' League.

The call for the convention to organize a state farmers' league for New York embodied these words:

The unification of the organization and the welding of the chain of relationship with the body of farmers of the state are of paramount importance at this time.

The need is urgent, prudent counsel is expected, efficient practical and disinterested direction required. In union there is strength. In complete, established and harmonious union there is powerful good. Time is a great factor.

The convention was held at Altamont on Sept. 5.

Don't Be Caught Napping.

Farmers are determined and emphatic as regards representation in congress and legislature. How do they expect to secure it? Certainly not by sitting down with folded hands. Let every farmer remember that at the primaries and nominating conventions the work must be done. See that true blue farmers are sent to conventions, those men who will dare to present the name of a farmer and fight for his nomination. There can be no half way measure that will answer. We should understand that we have wily politicians in all existing parties to deal with, and must not be caught napping.—American Grange Bulletin.

Perhaps the members of the various farmers' associations are most completely agreed in demanding government regulation and supervision of railways, and the suppression of commercial and manufacturing trusts or "combines."—Youth's Companion.

A Woman Suffragist in France.

That distinguished French champion of woman's rights, M. de Gasto, lately made a somewhat startling proposition to the French government. He suggested that the number of French senators in the chambers should be reduced to 200, the deputies to 400, and that women should be appointed to fill one-half of these positions in each department. Even in America we haven't reached that degree of progress.—New York Ledger.

Ivy Poison.

The juice of the stems and leaves of the common wild balsam with spotted orange colored flowers, known as "jewel weed" and "touch me not," is reported to have proven a sure cure for poisoning of the skin by the poison ivy or oak.—Wald of Health.

Baron Hirsch, of Paris, who lately made the munificent permanent bequest of \$10,000 a month to aid poor immigrant Hebrews in the United States, is coming to America during the autumn. He is reputed to be the richest private person in Europe, and has been a conspicuous figure in London fashionable circles during the late "season," as the particular friend of the Prince of Wales, who has introduced him everywhere.

"The decalogue and the golden rule have no place in a political campaign. The object is success."—John J. Ingalls.

Christian friend, read that again.

Get up a club. See our offer.

TO FANCY.

From what mystery of space
Come you, miracle of grace!
Shy, elusive, like a star
Shot across the night you are,
Lighting up the realm of dream
With a transitory gleam?

Phantom of the poet's brain,
From what shadowy domain
Come you secretly, unsought,
Making music of his thought,
Giving him the gift of rhyme
At an unexpected time!

Is there any magic here
That will win you quick and sure?
Is there any fatter strong
That will hold you, son of song?
Tell me, Fancy, so that I
May not let you slip me by!

—Frank Dempster Sherman in Harper's Bazar.

Married Women Teachers.

The question concerning the advisability of married women being employed as teachers in the public schools has excited widespread interest and discussion in Cincinnati, not only among members of the board of education, teachers, patrons and pupils of the schools, but every married man and married woman is engaged as partisans in the contest to decide the supremacy of the single over the married woman's eligibility to service. The board of education has finally declared by a vote of 12 to 11 not to employ married women as teachers hereafter.

The agitation was precipitated by a resolution offered by one of the members of the board to the effect that the appointments of all married women teachers should be reconsidered and their places filled by single women. In support of his resolution the member advanced the single but suggestive argument that there are 300 unmarried girl graduates in the city who are unable to obtain situations as teachers. He also stated very emphatically that he was in favor of a "solid four ply rule" that will keep married women out of the schools, for they have no business there while there is sufficient talent without them."—New York Sun.

Pretty Walter Girls.

At the Bear and Fox inn, Ontario, Catskill mountains, the summer resting place of "Mark Twain" and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hutton, Mr. and Mrs. Brander Matthews, Mrs. and the Misses Bend, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge, Carroll Beckwith and family and a few more charming people, the cottagers take their meals in the club dining room. There are twenty small tables, beautifully appointed, at which twenty young American girls are in charge. The young women were trained by Miss Grace Dodge and placed in their present position. They dress in unstarched gingham, white caps and pinafores, light soled shoes and bright neck ribbons. Their hands and finger nails are always clean, their tresses lightly dressed, their voices are low, their words few, their movements graceful, and their service unapproachable. You can fancy their worth, capability and the esteem in which they are held when I tell you that they answer to the name of "my dear."—Catskill Letter.

A Bright New York Girl.

Miss Fanny Locke, whose father expects to be the bishop of the diocese of Chicago one of these days, has written a couple of comediettas, put them on the stage, costumed and rehearsed the characters, played the leading parts herself and acted as stage manager besides. On several occasions this most versatile young woman has played in Mrs. George M. Pullman's theatre, the box receipts going to St. Luke's hospital. The venerable rector of Grace church, who is very apprehensive lest his beautiful daughter becomes too fond of the stage, is most discouraging as a critic of her work.

Miss Locke is young and radiant, very English in speech, dress and tastes, a former pupil of Mrs. Teufel, nee Blanche Willis Howe, and a great lover of dogs. Her constant companion is a huge, amber colored brute that follows her to

church on Sundays, snoozes in the vestry through his master's sermon and never blinks till the benediction is pronounced.—Exchange.

How Mrs. Morrison Dug a Well.

About two weeks ago Mrs. Green Morrison, wife of an ice company employe, living in East Gainesville, Tex., commenced to sink a well single handed in her yard. After she had reached a depth where she could not throw the dirt from the well with a spade she put down a ladder, on which she would descend, fill a box with dirt, return to the top of the well, and with a windlass draw up the box and its contents. The work was kept up till she reached a depth of some fifteen feet, when she struck a fine stream of water. During all this time she did the cooking and cared for her small children.—Cor. Kansas City Times.

Strikes in Australia.

The smokers have just won a great triumph in New South Wales. The Sydney dockers had threatened to strike for "smoke time," and their employers have agreed to allow three-quarters of an hour a day for smoking, "smoke time to be paid for by the employers." The fact brings out in a remarkable way the difference between the conditions of labor in the Old and New World respectively. In London the dockers strike for life, in Sydney for luxury.—Pall Mall Gazette.

"To thine own self be true,
And it will follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

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